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## Michigan Drops Intoxicated Driving Level to 0.08

*Legislation will save 500 lives and reduce alcohol-related traffic deaths*

LANSING – Legislation to reduce alcohol-related traffic deaths in Michigan by dropping the “operating while intoxicated” limit from 0.10 to 0.08 bodily alcohol content (BAC) passed the State Senate today, Senator Hardiman (R-Kentwood) said.

“Protecting Michigan residents from unsafe drivers is one of my priorities. Lowering the BAC is another step in protecting those traveling on our roads and highways,” Senator Hardiman said. House Bill 4247 would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to prohibit a person from “operating while intoxicated” if the person was under the influence of alcohol and/or a controlled substance, or the person had a bodily alcohol content of 0.08 gram per 100 milliliters of blood.

According to the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (M.A.D.D.) website, statistics have shown a six to eight percent reduction in alcohol-related traffic deaths in states following the passage of the 0.08 BAC “intoxicated” level.

The federal government passed a law in requiring states to pass a 0.08 BAC per se law by October 1, 2003, or face the withholding of 2 percent of their federal highway construction funds. States without the law by the October 1, 2003 deadline face the loss of an additional 2 percent of highway funds each year until 2006.

Michigan would join 41 states and the District of Columbia to have a 0.08 BAC per se law. The bill will be sent to the House for consideration.